

Health Care Update

CONGRESSWOMAN HILDA L. SOLIS



FIGHTING TO MEET THE HEALTH CARE NEEDS OF OUR COMMUNITY



Dear Friend,

Nothing is more important to us than the health of our families and loved ones. That is why I am fighting in Congress to ensure that our families have access to the health care they need and deserve.

As a member of the powerful House Energy and Commerce Committee, I have the opportunity to work on many important health care bills. My priorities include lowering the cost of health care and increasing funding for disease research.

I hope you find this update about my work on health issues informative. As always, please do not hesitate to contact my district offices regarding any concerns you may have with the federal government.

Sincerely,

Hilda L. Solis

Hilda L. Solis



Congresswoman Solis receives an award from members of the California Primary Care Association for her leadership in Congress on health policy issues related to East Los Angeles and the San Gabriel Valley.

CONGRESSWOMAN SOLIS – FIGHTING TO MEET

ELIMINATING RACIAL AND ETHNIC HEALTH INEQUITIES

Latinos, Asian Pacific Islanders, and African Americans suffer many diseases, such as diabetes and obesity, at much higher rates than the population in general. As Chair of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Task Force on Health and a member of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus, Congresswoman Solis is a leader in the fight to eliminate racial and ethnic health inequities.



Congresswoman Solis speaks about the importance of eliminating racial and ethnic health inequities at a press conference on Capitol Hill.

Congresswoman Solis is a co-author of the Healthcare Equality and Accountability Act (H.R. 3561), comprehensive legislation to expand access to health insurance, increase research and prevention of chronic diseases and provide culturally and linguistically appropriate health care services.

FIGHTING TO COVER THE UNINSURED

With the increasing price of health care - rising 60 percent over the past five years - health care is a benefit that far too many people cannot afford. Today, 45 million Americans live without health coverage, including 10 million children. Approximately 1 in 3 residents in the San Gabriel Valley lack health insurance.

The growing uninsured problem affects all of us – it's a national problem that needs a national solution. Congresswoman Solis supports a guaranteed health insurance system and access to affordable, quality healthcare for all Americans.

PROTECTING MEDICAID & THE STATE CHILDREN'S HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM

Fifty million Americans depend on Medicaid for their health care coverage, including more than 25 million children and 5 million seniors. That is why Congresswoman Solis strongly opposes proposals to cut Medicaid, reduce services or alter the fundamental structure of the program.

CONGRESSWOMAN SOLIS SUPPORTS:

- extending Medicaid eligibility to uninsured parents of children who are enrolled in SCHIP;
- allowing federal support for states like California which provide health services for lawfully present immigrant children and pregnant women;
- outreaching to those not yet enrolled who are eligible for services; and
- increasing the availability of Medicaid and SCHIP matching funds for states to provide interpretation and translation services.



Congresswoman Solis meets with patients of the Azusa Health Clinic. Expanding access to quality health care for children is one of Congresswoman Solis' priorities in Congress.

To sign up for periodic email reports from Congresswoman Solis, please visit: www.house.gov/solis.

THE HEALTH CARE NEEDS OF OUR COMMUNITY

STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY HEALTH CLINICS

Congresswoman Solis recognizes the critical role that community health clinics play in providing comprehensive health care services to families in the 32nd Congressional District. She has helped local health clinics qualify for federal assistance. For example, Congresswoman Solis:



Congresswoman Solis receives the 2005 Distinguished Community Health Defender Award from the National Association of Community Health Centers for her efforts in Congress to strengthen community health clinics for the uninsured.

- ✓ Secured \$417,000 for the City of Azusa and El Proyecto del Barrio to renovate the **Azusa Health Clinic** which serves approximately 800 clients per month;
- ✓ Secured \$320,000 for the **East Valley Community Health Clinic** in West Covina to replace its overcrowded and aging facility. The expanded facility will include a new dental program, with a projected 5,000 dental visits during its first year;
- ✓ Secured \$260,000 for a school-based dental clinic at the **El Sereno Middle School** in East Los Angeles; and
- ✓ Helped secure a \$650,000 grant for **El Proyecto del Barrio** to expand its health services in Los Angeles County. The money secured will benefit the organization's health facilities, including the Azusa Health Center.

This federal assistance helps these clinics to expand access to health care and build healthier communities through their knowledge of our culturally diverse and growing community.

ADDRESSING LANGUAGE BARRIERS

For individuals who speak a language other than English, navigating our complex health care system can be more frightening than being sick. Many immigrants are ineligible for public programs and even those who are eligible often fear going to the hospital or seeing a doctor. Non-traditional organizations, like the *Promotoras de Salud*, help bridge the gap for immigrants who need healthcare assistance.

Congresswoman Solis supports increased federal funding for non-traditional programs because of their proven success in reaching underserved communities in ways that traditional healthcare cannot.

ADVOCATING FOR HIV AND AIDS PREVENTION

In Los Angeles County, nearly 52,000 people are infected with HIV. Even when confronted with a disease like HIV and AIDS, many of our communities face barriers to care because of lack of insurance, cultural and linguistic insensitivities in the health care system, or simple lack of information. Intervention and prevention methods must be tailored to meet the needs of our diverse communities.

Congresswoman Solis supports increased funding for HIV education and the expansion of federal programs to underserved populations. She strongly supports the comprehensive reauthorization of the Ryan White CARE Act, which funds HIV prevention and treatment across the nation.



Congresswoman Solis discusses the Ryan White CARE Act with members of the National Association of People Living with AIDS.

Congresswoman Solis wants to hear from you! Call (626) 448-1271 or visit www.house.gov/solis

PROMOTING WOMEN'S HEALTH

As Co-Chair of the Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues, women's health is one of Congresswoman Solis' top priorities. She is very concerned about the diseases that disproportionately affect women, like breast cancer, ovarian cancer, stroke and, in particular, heart disease. Heart disease is the number one killer of American women; in fact, one in three women dies of heart disease.



Congresswoman Solis speaks with staff at the Foothill Family Services Clinic about the importance of prevention and treatment programs for at-risk youth and special education students.

Congresswoman Solis is working to find out how to best treat women diagnosed with these diseases, and most importantly, about how to prevent these illnesses among women.

A LEADER IN CONGRESS ON HEALTH ISSUES

Congresswoman Solis is a leading advocate in Congress for health care reform. She is the:

- **First Latina appointed to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce**
- **Chair, Congressional Hispanic Caucus Health Task Force**
- **Co-Chair, Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues**
- **Member, Democratic Caucus Health and Medicare Task Force**

HEALTH RESOURCES

Children's Health Insurance

877-KIDS-NOW
www.insurekids.now

Childhood Immunization Information

800-232-2522
800-232-0233; Spanish

Diabetes Education Program

800-438-5383
www.ndep.nih.gov

Medicaid/SCHIP

877-KIDS-NOW
www.cms.hhs.gov/medicaid/consumer.asp
www.cms.gov/schip

Medicare

800-MEDICARE
www.medicare.gov

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

877-696-6775
800-845-6136; Spanish
www.hhs.gov

For assistance with federal agencies, please contact Congresswoman Solis' District Offices or visit www.house.gov/solis.

My Offices Are Here To Help

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